

AMTRAK CALIFORNIA
SAN JOAQUIN ALL ABOARD SENIORS
2006 Season

Visit Ventura and see the last mission built by Father Junipero Serra; relive early California history at El Pueblo de Los Angeles; experience life in the only surviving colony west of the Mississippi River founded by former slaves at Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park; immerse yourself in California History at the California State Railroad Museum, the California State History Museum, and the State Capital; enjoy the crab, cablecars and colorful characters in San Francisco; and surround yourself in aviation history at Castle Air Museum and Science and Technology Center.

These and many other fun and exciting places are all within easy reach aboard Amtrak California's *San Joaquin* trains, and the "All Aboard Seniors" Program makes it easy to take your seniors group there!

Seniors, group leaders and their guests can use the *San Joaquin* for transportation for group trips between the Greater Los Angeles, Inland Empire, High Desert and Central Coast areas and anywhere along the route north to Sacramento and San Francisco for as little as \$10 per person round trip.

This season's program runs from March 4, 2006 through December 14, 2006. See all the details inside and we'll see you soon on Amtrak California's *San Joaquin*!

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Additions and changes to the program may occur during the program season. Check the program website periodically for the latest information. Go to the website at www.amtrakcalifornia.com and scroll down the page to "All Aboard Seniors," then click your way through the program from there.

INTRODUCTION

This package contains information and instructions -- everything you'll need to plan and reserve your group trip by train. **Do NOT call Amtrak** - a reservation for the All Aboard Seniors program cannot be made over the phone. If you have questions about the program, call Marguerite Monahan at (916) 654-6142, but do not call until you have read the information in this package.

Here are the steps to your fun trip aboard Amtrak California:

1. Select a travel date from those offered on the Reservation Request Form
2. Select a destination using the Zone Map and Destination Guide
3. Determine your cost using the Fare Calculator and Zone Map
4. Select your train(s) and bus(es) using the Train and Bus Schedules
5. Complete the Reservation Request Form
6. Send the form by FAX at least 30 days before your requested travel date
7. Receive your reservation number from Amtrak within 10 business days
8. Purchase your tickets at an Amtrak station no later than 7 days before your trip
9. All Aboard!

SELECTING YOUR DATE

The San Joaquin All Aboard Seniors program is available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday beginning March 4, 2006. The last day for travel in this program is December 14, 2006. This offer is **not** valid on the following days and dates:

- Fridays and Sundays;
- April 13, 2006 through and including April 17, 2006;
- May 26, 2006 through and including May 29, 2006;
- September 1, 2006 through and including September 4, 2006;
- October 6, 2006 through and including October 9, 2006;
- November 9, 2006 through and including November 12, 2006; and
- November 21, 2006 through and including November 28, 2006.

Page two of the Reservation Request Form contains a calendar with the program availability dates shown. **Do not call Amtrak to check for availability of dates.**

SELECTING YOUR DESTINATION

Your destination may be determined by cost, so you may want to consult the Zone Map together with the Destination Guide. The latter provides information about all the cities served by the San Joaquin in the program. Included in each city listing are telephone numbers and website addresses for additional information about a particular venue. See the third page of the Reservation Request Form and the column marked "To." If you select a destination marked "EXTRA FARE," your final ticket price will increase by a few dollars more per person, depending upon several details. The extra fare is usually less than \$6.00 per person round trip in addition to your zone fare. **Do not call Amtrak for information about extra fares - when your trip is confirmed you will be advised of the exact cost.**

The Zone Map shows each city in the San Joaquin program with the entire route divided into 6 zones. Zones 1 through 5 cost \$10 per person per zone for a same-day round trip. Zone 6 costs \$20 per person for a same-day round trip. For each zone you travel into or through on your same-day trip, the round trip ticket price per person increases by that zone's fare. **You cannot travel to and from locations only within Zone 6.**

Here are some examples of same-day round trip fares per person:

- Fresno to Hanford: 1 zone = \$10
- Hanford to Sacramento: 3 zones = \$30
- Merced to San Francisco - Pier 39: 2 zones = \$20
- Los Angeles to Sacramento: 4 zones, including Zone 6 @ \$20 = \$50

For fares involving overnight (or longer) stays, ALL zone fares double for a round trip. If you travel overnight (or longer) neither day can be on a Friday, Sunday, or holiday period as listed in "Selecting Your Date."

CALCULATING YOUR COST

Any admission fees, hotels or other costs for your trip must be arranged and purchased by you - they aren't included in your Amtrak California ticket price. Amtrak California provides only train and Thruway bus service in this program fare.

Using the Zone Map information in the section above you can calculate the total cost of your trip aboard Amtrak California trains and Thruway bus for your group.

The Fare Calculator is used to calculate the total fare for one person and a table at the end calculates the total group fare.

- Refer to the "RESTRICTIONS" section for important information
- Refer to the Zone Map and find the city where your trip will begin.
- Find your destination city.
- Mark the box adjacent to each zone you travel into or through on your trip.
- Add the marked boxes and multiply by the dollar amount shown.
- If any part of your trip includes Zone 6, add \$20.
- Multiply the dollar amount by the number of persons in your group.

The resulting figure is your total group fare, not including any "extra fare" costs as discussed in "Selecting Your Destination."

NOTE: Infants under age 2 ride free if they don't occupy a seat.

(Fare calculator is on the next page)

Fare Calculator

Zone 1	
Zone 2	
Zone 3	
Zone 4	
Zone 5	

Total _____ x \$10 = \$_____

Zone 6 (if applicable) = \$ 20.00

Subtotal = \$_____

X number in group = _____

TOTAL GROUP COST = _____

Staying overnight (or longer)? You can use this program for trips requiring overnight stays for one or more nights providing both days of travel are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday. For hotels and other information, check with the Chamber of Commerce or Convention and Visitors Bureau listed in the Destination Guide for the city you'll be visiting.

You'll need to complete two Reservation Request forms, each for a one-way trip. Because there are no one-way same-day fares in this program, your fare is calculated the same as a round trip for each request form submitted. For example, if you are traveling round trip on the same day from Fresno to Sacramento (Zones 3 and 4) the fare is \$20 per person. If you are traveling from Fresno to Sacramento, spending one or more nights, and returning from Sacramento to Fresno, the fare is \$20 per person for each direction, or \$40 total per person.

SELECTING YOUR TRAIN(S) AND BUS(ES)

- Refer to the Train and Bus Schedules and find the city where your trip will begin.
- Find your destination city.
- If both cities are not on the same schedule page, you may need to consult other schedule pages.
- Find your departure and arrival times in the same column for both cities and note the number at the top of the column - that's your train number.
- For a return trip, look at the opposite schedule and do the same as you did above.

Here's a tip: If you went one way on an even-numbered train, you must take an odd-numbered train back home, or vice-versa.

If both cities are found on a "Bus Schedule," please note you cannot travel by Amtrak bus only - your trip must include train travel because California law forbids Amtrak to provide bus-only service.

Examples of prohibited travel are between:

- Emeryville and San Francisco;
- Bakersfield and Los Angeles; and
- Santa Barbara and Fillmore.

You can, however, travel between Stockton or Lodi and Sacramento by Amtrak bus if one direction of your trip is by train - refer to the Train Schedule.

You also cannot travel between Sacramento or Lodi and San Francisco, Oakland, Emeryville, Richmond, Six Flags Marine World, Martinez, or Antioch in this program. There aren't any connecting Amtrak buses linking Sacramento and Lodi to *San Joaquin* trains at Stockton that provide train connections to the west of Stockton.

COMPLETING YOUR RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

Do not call Amtrak regarding reservations for this program. If you have questions after reading the program material, call Marguerite Monahan of the Caltrans Rail Division at (916) 654-6142.

The three-page Reservation Request Form is located at end of this booklet and all the information you'll need to plan and reserve your trip is in this package. Carefully read all the material and follow all instructions. FAX all three pages of the completed form to the Amtrak Group Reservation Desk at (800) 872-3298. Amtrak cannot acknowledge receipt of your FAX. Amtrak will contact you by email, FAX or phone within about 10 business days to confirm your trip or for other information.

The offer is subject to space availability. Every request, regardless of group size, is reviewed and some may not be approved if space is not available. This offer is only for new trips booked after February 2, 2006 and the last day for travel in this program is December 14, 2006. Because you must submit your reservation request a minimum of 30 days in advance of your requested travel date, the last day to submit reservation requests for this program is November 14, 2006.

YOU CANNOT CHANGE DATES, TRAINS, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP, OR SCHEDULES ONCE YOUR RESERVATION REQUEST HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO AMTRAK.

When completing the Reservation Request Form, type or print legibly. Unreadable or incomplete Reservation Request forms will be rejected.

Page 1:

- Do not abbreviate.
- On Line 2, include the full street name, not "1234 Main," rather "1234 Main Street".
- On Line 4, include the first and last name, not "Mrs. Jones," rather "Susan Jones".

- For Line 5, Amtrak prefers to provide printed copies of reservation confirmations to their guests by sending an email or a FAX. If you do not have access to an email address or access to a FAX machine, call Dennis Winger at (916) 654-5928.

Page 2:

This page contains a calendar with the program availability dates shown. To indicate your desired travel date, circle the one date you have selected for your trip on the page. **Do not write or circle any other dates.**

Page 3:

- Check the box at the city where you'll begin your trip in the "From" column.
- Check the box at your destination city in the "To" column.
- You may wish to consult the Destination Guide for assistance in selecting a city. Read all city choices carefully in the "From" and "To" columns before making your selections.
- Check the box at the train you'll be using to leave your beginning city in the "Train/Bus From" column.
- Check the box at the train you'll be using to return to your beginning city in the "Train/Bus Return" column.
- You may wish to consult the Train and Bus Schedules and "Selecting Your Train(s) and Bus(es)" for assistance in selecting your train(s) and, if necessary, bus(es). Read all the train selections carefully in the "Train/Bus From" and "Train/Bus Return" columns before making your selections.

YOU CANNOT CHANGE DATES, TRAINS, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP, OR SCHEDULES ONCE YOUR RESERVATION REQUEST HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO AMTRAK.

If you are only traveling one-way using Amtrak California, mark the "None or One-way" box in the "Train/Bus Return" column.

Staying overnight (or longer)? You can use this program for trips requiring overnight stays for one or more nights providing both days of travel are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday. For hotels and other information, check with the Chamber of Commerce or Convention and Visitors Bureau listed in the Destination Guide for the city you'll be visiting.

You'll need to complete TWO Reservation Request forms, each for a one-way trip:

- On one request form circle the date you want to start your trip, and check the boxes showing the city you're leaving, your destination, and the train/bus "From."
- On the same form, check the "None or One-way" box under the "Return" Train/Bus column.

- On the other request form, circle the date you want to return, and check the boxes showing the city you're leaving (where you've been staying), your destination (home), and the train/bus "From."
- On the same form, check the "None or One-way" box under the "Return" Train/Bus column again.

Send your completed Reservation Request forms (all three pages for each trip) by FAX to Amtrak Group Reservations at (800) 872-3298.

PAYING FOR YOUR TICKETS

If your reservation is confirmed, review the information for accuracy. Your confirmation will include a reservation number. You must purchase your tickets no later than **7** days before your trip. Take your reservation number and a list of the first and last names all persons in your group to any staffed Amtrak station to purchase your tickets. You may use cash, credit card or a business check made out to "Amtrak." Personal checks and purchase orders will not be accepted. If you are purchasing multiple trips, you must provide individual payment for each reservation. Tickets are non-refundable. Refunds cannot be issued if the number of passengers in your group is less on the day of travel than what you originally reserved and purchased.

If your reservation cannot be made by Amtrak, review your plans to determine if alternate dates are acceptable and submit another request. Amtrak may ask for an alternate date when they advise you the original date could not be granted. Remember to check with your destination to make certain your new date is still valid.

You can purchase your tickets anytime after you've received your reservation number until 7 days before your trip. Tickets must be purchased no later than **seven (7) days** in advance of your trip. You can purchase your tickets with a credit card, cash or business check payable to "Amtrak" from any staffed Amtrak station. No personal checks or purchase orders will be accepted. The staffed stations are located in Oakland, Emeryville, Martinez, Stockton, Sacramento, Modesto, Merced, Fresno, Hanford, Bakersfield, Santa Barbara, Oxnard, Van Nuys, and Los Angeles.

Partial purchases are not permitted and your reservation will be canceled if you do not purchase your tickets **7** days prior to your trip.

Tickets are non-refundable. Refunds cannot be issued if the number of passengers in your group is less on the day of travel than what you originally reserved and purchased.

Do not lose your tickets. Amtrak will not replace lost, stolen or misplaced tickets. You must present your tickets on your day(s) of travel.

RESTRICTIONS

This offer is only for *San Joaquin* trains and specified Amtrak Thruway buses, and it is not available on Amtrak's *Coast Starlight*, Amtrak California's *Capitol Corridor*, Metrolink trains or any other California train service.

Your travel can only be taken on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Saturday from March 4, 2006 through and including December 14, 2006. There are no one-way same day fares. Groups traveling either one-way or roundtrip in the same day pay the same low price. No stopovers are permitted. A stopover is defined as an intermediate stop where the group leaves the train, then later continues in the same direction on a different train.

This offer is **not** valid on the following days and dates:

- Fridays and Sundays;
- April 13, 2006 through and including April 17, 2006;
- May 26, 2006 through and including May 29, 2006;
- September 1, 2006 through and including September 4, 2006;
- October 6, 2006 through and including October 9, 2006;
- November 9, 2006 through and including November 12, 2006; and
- November 21, 2006 through and including November 28, 2006.

The minimum group size for this program is 20 persons, **except for groups using the Amtrak Thruway bus connections between Bakersfield and the Santa Barbara, San Fernando, High Desert, and Los Angeles areas, which requires a minimum of 40 persons. In other words --** Zones 1 through 5 requires a minimum of 20 persons and Zone 6 requires a minimum of 40 persons.

Seating is limited on each trip. Every request, regardless of group size, is reviewed and some may not be approved if space is not available.

You must use the reservation procedures in this program to get the program fares. You cannot call or visit an Amtrak station to reserve a trip in this program.

You must FAX your complete and legible reservation request form a minimum of **30** days in advance of your requested trip date. **Reservation requests received less than 30 days prior to the requested travel date will be rejected.**

You cannot change dates, trains, the number of people in your group, or schedules once your reservation request has been submitted to Amtrak.

An accurate list with the first and last names of all persons traveling on your trip must be submitted to the Amtrak agent when you purchase your tickets and you must carry a copy of the list with you during your trip.

Any admission fees, hotels or other costs for your trip must be arranged and purchased by you - they aren't included in your Amtrak California ticket price. Amtrak California provides only train and Thruway bus service in this program fare.

Your group should arrive approximately **1 hour** early to all departure locations. Your group may be turned away if it arrives too close to departure time. You **MUST** be prepared to board your trains or buses before scheduled departure time.

This is a **SPECIAL** offer available only through Amtrak's Group Reservation system using the procedures outlined in this package. **DO NOT CALL TO CHECK AVAILABILITY FOR SPECIFIC DATES - RESERVATIONS ARE MADE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED AND SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Do not call Amtrak about this program.**

A WORD ABOUT OPERATION LIFESAVER

California Operation Lifesaver (OL) is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to reducing or eliminating death and injuries due to vehicular and pedestrian trespassing on railroad property. OL presentations are informative and educational and OL has agreed to offer their presentation to groups. For more information regarding program availability, contact Zoe Richmond, President and Statewide Coordinator at (916) 952-6762.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q.** *Is there a MAXIMUM number allowed in a group?*
- A.** While there is no maximum, keep in mind this is a "space available" program. Most groups encounter little difficulty with their requests if their group size is no larger than 75 or so. On rare occasions we have had room for 150 or more, but other times it has been difficult to find space for a group of 50. This is another reason to submit your request as soon as possible and AT LEAST 30 days in advance of your planned travel date.
- Q.** *Can I add people to my group after I've sent my request in?*
- A.** No, however anyone can purchase a full-fare ticket for the same trains if space is available. There is no guarantee they will be allowed to sit with the group.
- Q.** *What if our Amtrak Thruway bus is late to meet the train or vice versa?*
- A.** Not to worry - you have a "guaranteed connection" between your train and bus. If either is delayed the other won't leave without you, or we'll make sure to get you where you're going.
- Q.** *I need to know immediately if my trip is approved. Why do I have to wait so long?*
- A.** All Aboard Seniors is a discount program which takes advantage of available seats based upon existing reservations and a computerized prediction of availability. All requests for these deeply discounted seats must be reviewed and approved by Amtrak management well in advance of the trip date.
- Q.** *Will our group be allowed to sit together on the train?*
- A.** Yes! In most instances, the conductor will set aside an entire car or section of a car (depending on group size and space availability) for your group and no one else will be seated with you.
- Q.** *I sent my FAX in but I haven't heard back about my reservation. What can I do?*
- A.** 1) Be certain your FAX was sent to the proper number; 2) Be certain at least 10 business days have elapsed since you sent your FAX; and 3) call Marguerite Monahan at (916) 654-6142. Have your original reservation form available when you call.

IF YOU NEED HELP

If you encounter difficulty in preparing your reservation request, or if you have questions or concerns regarding the All Aboard Seniors program which are not addressed in the program information, call Marguerite Monahan of the Caltrans Rail Division at (916) 654-6142. **Do NOT call Amtrak.** If you prefer to use email, you may send your message to Marguerite.Monahan@dot.ca.gov.